

Commemorative Issues:

Tercentenary of the Establishment of the “General Letter Office” - 1960.

The issue commemorates the tercentenary of the setting up of the ‘General Letter Office’ which was officially established in England in 1660 by King Charles II. Before that, in 1635, King Charles I had allowed the use of the Royal Posts (the Royal Mail) to be used for conveying private correspondence. A charge was levied for private letters based on the distance the item had to be carried, with, for some strange reason, the recipient having the right of refusal.

This system changed in 1840 with the introduction of Rowland Hill’s Uniform Penny Post, and its adhesive pre-paid labels - and so a new hobby was born! In 1969 the GPO was abolished and its assets transferred to The Post Office, thus changing it from a Department of State to a Statutory Corporation.

Designers:

- *Reynolds Stone* (1909-1979) - 3d (Poster Boy).
- *Faith Jaques* (1923-1997) - 1/3d (Posthorn of 1660).

Printing details

Printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd, High Wycombe - double pane, reel-fed, producing two (no dot and dot) sheets of 120 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of six stamps for the 3d, and 6 rows of twenty stamps for the 1/3d. The watermark is sideways on the 1/3d stamp.

Issued date - 7th July 1960. The stamp was withdrawn from sale 31st December 1960.

Quantities sold - figures are shown above each stamp.

3d - 143,390,520



45 dies

1/3d - 6,090,840



6 dies

The following table lists the number of *all known G.B. Perfin dies* found on the *Tercentenary of the Establishment of the “General Letter Office” issue*, and is correct to *1st January 2019*.

Just two of the *49* Perfin dies can be found on both stamps:

- “DHE” (D2260.02aM), used 1925-1980 by D H Evans & Co Ltd, Oxford St, London W1.
- “H” (H0012.11), used 1915-1980 - 3 possible users.

	PS Cat No	Letters	3d	1/3d
49 DD	<< Totals >>	51 DDF	45	6
1	A0830.01M	A/Bros	3d	
2	A2080.02M	A/EI	3d	
3	A3210.02M	AJ/&Co	3d	
4	A4910.03M	AS	3d	
5	B0013.10	B	3d	
6	B1110.02M	BC	3d	
7	B1110.05M	BC	3d	
8	B2310.01M	BE	3d	
9	B3030.01M	B.G/Co		1/3d
10	B3300.01	BH/C	3d	
11	B4890.01	BM/I	3d	
12	B6420.01mM	BS monogram	3d	
13	B7100.01	BT/C	3d	
14	C5770.03M	C.P	3d	
15	D0580.01	D.C.	3d	
16	D0705.01M	DCC/P	3d	
17	D2080.03	D&G	3d	
18	D2260.02aM	DHE	3d	1/3d
19	D2730.01M	D.L.	3d	
20	E3460.01	E.P./&C	3d	
21	F0620.01M	F+C.F+C	3d	
22	F1770.01	F.H	3d	
23	F2460.01M	FLd	3d	
24	F3580.01	FRY	3d	
25	G0780.01M	G.C.	3d	
26	G1390.01	de in G	3d	
27	H0012.11	H	3d	1/3d
28	H3820.03a	H&I/O	3d	
29	H6810.03	HS/&S	3d	
30	I1510.01M	IL	3d	
31	J2270.03M	JDW/M	3d	
32	K0390.02a	K/&Co.	3d	
33	K0440.01	KCS	3d	
34	L1300.03M	L/&Co/Ld	3d	
35	L1330.01	LCT	3d	
36	L1960.01	LE/UDC	3d	
37	L3180.01	LINE	3d	
38	M6030.01M	MW/Co.		1/3d
39	N2750.02	NR/C	3d	
40	O1180.02	O&M	3d	
41	P2350.01M	P.H/Co.	3d	
42	S0590.01f	SB/C		1/3d
43	S1210.04M	SC	3d	
44	S4820.02	SMC		1/3d
45	T2470.01M	T.I.C.	3d	
46	T3220.01	TMcL/&Co	3d	
47	U0420.01M	U..C/Co	3d	
48	W8230.01M	W.W./&S.	3d	
49	Des0540.01M	Diamond	3d	

Any additional information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Please forward any new details to:

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